पड़ोस में होने वाली गतिविधियों को देखते हुए तथा सरकार देश की सुरक्षा को उत्पन्न होने वाले किसी भी खतरे का सामना करने के लिए सभी आवश्यक उपाय करने के प्रति वचनबद्ध है।

Proposal to reduce expenditure on VVIP security

2420. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of reduced terrorists' threat and the mounting expenditure on this head Government propose to revise the list of VVIP security cover;

(b) if so, by when and to what extent; and

(c) the total annual expenditure incurred in providing the above security cover especially in "Z" category separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The annual expenditure incurred in providing 'Z' category of security to the protectees by Delhi Police is about Rs. 5.37 crores.

Inception of social forestry scheme in Orissa

2421. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the yeare of inception of Social Forestry Scheme in Orissa;

(b) the progress of the scheme in that state since then;

(c) the steps taken to make the scheme a great success in the state; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The Social Forestry Scheme started in Orissa from 1983-84 with assistance from Swedish International Development Agency. The first phase of Social Forestry Scheme started in 1983-84 and continued till 1987-88. The second phase of this scheme was started in 1988-89 and will continue till 31st March, 1996. Under two phases of this scheme nearly 2.6. lakh ha. area has been treated and expenditure of Rs. 153.94 crores have been incurred till 30-6-95. In addition during the 1st phase 349 lakhs seedlings were also distributed.

(c) and (d) Increased people's participation in the management of forests is the major objective of these schemes. Accordingly, many forest protection Committees consisting of local villagers are working for the protection of forests in association with the forest department. In addition various training courses and workshops have been organised for the forest department staffs and local villagers for attitudinal alignment to work in tandem for betterment of forests and development of villages. Training have also been imparted for upgradation of technical skills of the forest department personnels in the various field of forest related activities.

Allocation for maintenance of roads

2422. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh and other State Governments have been repeatedly making representations pointing out allocations for original construction, maintenance and repairs of National Highways;

(b) whether according to State Governments the work of maintenance and widening of National Highways has suffered on this account; and

(c) if so, what additional funds have been demanded by the State

Governments this year and what is the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Various State Governments including Madhya Pradesh have been demanding additional allocations from time to time. However, it has not been possible to meet their demands fully due to continued constraint of funds for both development and maintenance of National Highways. Efforts continue to be made to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy conditions within available resources.

(c) An amount of Rs. 14.75 crore has been allocated for normal maintenance for the NHs in the State of Madhya Pradesh. However, the State Government have asked for an additional amount of Rs. 4.76 crore which will be considered only if additional funds are available.

Salient features of 'Save the tiger' campaign'

2423. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "Save the Tiger" campaign has been launched on 1st October, 1995, on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the campaign and its main objectives; and

(c) the steps so far taken and which are being taken now in pursuance of the campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No such campaign was launched by the Government of India on 1st October, 1995.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ban of trucks carrying extra foodgrains

2424. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters and transporters have urged the Government to lift the ban on truck carrying 25 per cent extra foodgrains;

(b) whether they have brought out the problems faced by them and the loss incurred by them in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have so far taken to remove the hurdles faced by farmers, exporters and transport companies connected with the transportation of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been stated in the representation that ceilings on the weight limits now prescribed by the Government have resulted in hardships and these should be relaxed. The ceilings under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are not new but are the same, as have been in vogue since 1982. Overloading of the vehicles beyond the prescribed limits is considered to be a danger to the roads and also a major causative factor for road accidents. Therefore, no relaxations in these rules, have been made.

New Paddy Shelling Projects

2425. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restrictions on shelling of paddy have been removed; if so, the details thereof;